AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing nephropathy caused by a nephrotoxic agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for providing kidney protection from a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for providing protection from a kidney dysfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for providing protection from nephropathy caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight-ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

15. (New) A method for preventing a kidney disfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent selected from the group consisting of lithium, antibiotics and anticancer drugs with a nephrotoxic potential and environmental contaminants, which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

16. (New) A method for preventing a kidney disfunction caused by a nephrotoxic or potential nephrotoxic external agent, selected from the group consisting of lithium, antibiotics and anticancer drugs with a nephrotoxic potential and environmental contaminants, which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

17. (New) A method for preventing a tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by *Aspergillus ochraceus*.

19. (New) A method according to claim 18, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.

20. (New) A method for preventing a tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

21. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by *Aspergillus ochraceus*.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.

23. (New) A method for preventing a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

24. (New) A method for preventing a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium 2-5 mg of

acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (New) A method for providing kidney protection from tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by *Aspergillus ochraceus*.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.

28. (New) A method for providing kidney protection from tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said mycotoxin a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by *Aspergillus ochraceus*.

30. (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.

31. (New) A method for providing protection from a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium a combination composition of acetyl L-carnitine and propionyl L-carnitine or pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, in which the weight ratio of acetyl L-carnitine to propionyl L-carnitine is from 1:1 to 1:10.

32. (New) A method for providing protection from a tubular necrosis caused by lithium which comprises administering to an individual at risk to be contaminated by said lithium 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

33. (New) A method for preventing a tubular-interstitial nephropathy caused by a mycotoxin which comprises administering to an individual, at risk to come into contact with food contaminated by said mycotoxin, 2-5 mg of acetyl L-carnitine and 2-5 mg of propionyl L-carnitine/kg body weight/day or an equimolar amount of a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof.

34. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein said mycotoxin is produced by *Aspergillus ochraceus*.

35. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein said mycotoxin is ochratoxin A.